Drinking water supply at SC Railway Stations

4648. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drinking water supplied at Vijayawada Railway Station in South Central Railway has been found unsuitable for human consumption;

(b) whether weekly tests are done by the South Central Railway on the quality of water supplied at all the stations;

(c) if so, the details of such testing; and

(d) who supervise these tests?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Quality of drinking water is being tested regularly for chlorination and for bacteriological examination on all the stations as per the schedule laid down by Ministry of Railways. The same is being monitored by the concerned Medical Officers.

Letters written by MPs to the Ministry of Railways

4649. MOHAMMED AFZAL *Alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) 12,173.

(b) 1,838.

(c) 4,850.

(d) Such information is not maintained.

Compensation to land owners for acquisition of land

4650. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prompt payment of compensation has not been paid to the land owners, whose lands have been acquired;

(b) what is the number of cases pending for compensation, Railway zone-wise, for the period of over three years, over five years and over ten years;

(c) whether it is a fact that such persons have been denied job opportunities in Railway services; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the project affected people are not considered on priority for the food stalls, catering arrangements or petty contractors?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Land acquisition for Railway projects is conducted by the Land Acquisition authorities under the State Governments. Compensation as determined by the Land Acquisition authorities is deposited with them in lumpsum by the Railways promptly. Since actual disbursement of compensation is done by the State